



**DUPONT CIRCLE
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2B**
The Dupont Down Under Mall
1900 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Telephone: (202) 82 ANC 2B [822-6222] Fax: (202) 822-6223



Letters

To: Sutton-on-the-Run
DPW - Parking Enforcement
Re: Illegally Parked Trucks

To: Councilmembers, Smith, Ray, Mason, cc: Evans
Re: Bill 11-505, H.H. Leonard's

To: Public Space Administration, Solid Waste Division
Re: Early Trash Pick-ups

To: Councilmember Evans
Re: Early Trash Pick-ups

To: Emergency Preparedness
Re: Halloween Street Closing

To: BZA
Re: Use Variance, Gallery Inn

To: Public Service Commission
Re: Three Public Pay Phones (applications)

To: Public Space
Re: Applications - Prego 2 Go, Starbucks, Planet Fred

MINUTES ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2B PUBLIC MEETING OCTOBER 9, 1996.

Dr. Fernandez opened the meeting at 7:35p.m. Commissioners Heller, Pitsor, and Jackson were present.

The minutes of the September meeting were unanimously approved.

POLICE CRIME REPORT

Lt. Cullen of the 2nd District gave the crime report for September. He said that there was an overall decrease in crime.

COMMISSIONERS

01 Brad Haransky 02
Vice-Chair

03 Jonathan Heller 04 Donald Jackson 05
Treasurer

06 Henry Fernandez 07 Kyle Pitsor
Chairperson

Officer Burton of the 3rd District gave the crime report for September. Captain Westover said the Third District had revamped their schedule. Dr. Fernandez asked if that meant less officers on the street. Captain Westover said no. Dr. Fernandez asked if there was any new information on the murder that took place at 1616 16th Street. Officer Zelenka said that it was someone the victim knew as there was no forced entry. Officer Zelenka reported that there had been 6 bank robberies. He gave a description of the robber and asked if anyone had any information to please call the Third District. Mr. Heller asked if there was any information on the robbery that took place at the Safeway on 17th Street. Officer Zelenka said no. Officer Zelenka said that residents should be particularly careful during rainy days about hold-ups. Mr. Heller asked if porch lights deterred break ins. Officer Zelenka said yes, people should leave the light on when they leave in the A.M. if they are not going to return until after dark. Mr. Jackson said the cost of electricity from leaving a porch light on 24 hours a day is about a dollar and a half a month. Mr. Pitsor asked what could be done about a vagrant who had set up camp in the yard of a neighbor who is in the hospital. Officer Zelenka said the yard needs to be sealed. He said that if the agent for the owner would file a complaint about unlawful entry the police could arrest the trespasser. A resident asked if anything could be done about the street people who congregate on in the 1500 block of Church Street. He said there had been a lot of car break-ins, and that people congregate in the alley. He asked if something could be done about all the homeless people who camp out at Foundry Methodist Church. Officer Zelenka said the Church has to do something about it because its private property. Mr. Jackson said he had spoken to Councilmember Evans about the problem because he is a member of that church. He said he would call Mr. Evans again and tell him the problem still exists. Dr. Fernandez asked Mr. Jackson to write a letter to Foundry Methodist Church. Mr. Jackson agreed to do so.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. Fernandez announced the ANC had a commitment of free office space from Riggs Bank. He said the ANC would use this space until the Comfort Station renovation is done.

Mr. Heller asked the Commissioners to approve the Fourth Quarter Financial Report. Mr. Pitsor asked there be a line added to reflect the carry over from the previous fiscal year.

MOTION

Mr. Heller moved and Dr. Fernandez seconded to approve the ANC 2B Fourth Quarterly Financial Report as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

OPEN FORUM

A resident complained about trucks parking illegally on R Street while making deliveries to Sutton-on-the-Run. He said the trucks

parked during rush hour when there was no parking or standing allowed.

MOTION

Dr. Fernandez moved and Mr. Jackson seconded that letters be sent to Department of Public Works, Division of Parking Enforcement asking them to check out the situation of illegal parking and to Sutton on-the-Run advising them to talk to their vendors. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORT JACK EVANS OFFICE

Ms. Michelle Sedgewick said the next two months would be very busy ones for the Council. She said they would be trying to pass all proposed legislation before the end of the year, December 31. A resident asked if Bill 11-505 (H.H. Leonard's) was slated for a hearing. Ms. Sedgewick said that would be on October 22.

MOTION

Dr. Fernandez moved and Mr. Pitsor seconded to send letters to Councilpersons Mason, Ray, and Smith Restating ANC 2B's opposition to Bill 11-505, and urging them to vote against it. Also, to inform the councilmembers that the Dupont Circle Citizens Association is opposed to this bill. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Pitsor asked Ms. Sedgewick about the status of the Noise Bill. He said that drummers who congregate at the entrance of the Metro at 20th Street are causing complaints from nearby residents. Ms. Sedgewick said that bill should have already passed. Mr. Pitsor said that the law gives the police the authority to enforce the noise.

Mr. Jackson said the ANC is having problems getting timely notice from the Alcoholic Control Beverage Board about applications for liquor license renewals. He asked residents to be alert and call the ANC when they see establishments placarded. Ms. Sedgewick said the ANC could call Jack Evans office as they got the appropriate publication for those renewals.

ISSUES

1. Mr. Heller said that although he has complained, and continually asked the Department of Public Works to have its A.M. trash pick ups after 7A.M., in conformance with the regulations (between 7a.m. and 7p.m.), they continue to pick up the trash in his SMD as early as 6A.M. He said he wanted the ANC to send letters to appropriate parties in the D.C. Government to have the problem solved immediately. He said he wanted to develop a broad strategy. Mr. Heller said he wanted to know if any other SMDs were having a similar problem. He said the problem with giving citations to the trucks is you have to catch them in the act, and

that under DCRA regulations the agency gets 30 days to correct the problem, which is a long, drawn out process. Dr. Fernandez suggested ANC write to Jack Evans and request the problem be addressed in an oversight hearing. Mr. Heller said that the law governing the times of city trash pickups is on the books and needs to be enforced. He said the private haulers are also a problem. A resident said that he had complained about early trash pickups at La Fonda Restaurant. Mr. Gonsalvez of La Fonda said he had invited residents to call him personally at 5a.m. if there was a pick up and he would address it. He said it was a mis-perception that he was insensitive to the problem. Dr. Fernandez suggested that Mr. Gonsalvez call his hauler and tell them that if he gets complaints about trash pick ups before 7a.m. he would switch companies. Mr. Pena said that this was complicated as he shared the service with the adjacent apartment building. Dr. Fernandez said independent of that Mr. ??? still needs to consider changing companies. He suggested that Mr. Jackson help Mr. Pena locate the manager of the apartment building and see what could be worked out. Dr. Fernandez said the head of the Department of Public Works, Mr. Larry King, needs to be held accountable for this problem. Mr. Heller said the laws have to be changed to reflect accountability to the head of the agency. Mr. Heller said he wanted to send a letter to Larry King with a copy to the Mayor. Mr. Pitsor suggested that a letter be directed to Leslie Hotaling of the Department of Public Works, in charge of Solid Waste.

MOTION

Mr. Heller moved and Dr. Fernandez seconded to request a meeting with Ms. Hotaling to discuss the problem of early morning trash pick ups in Dupont Circle. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION

Dr. Fernandez moved and Mr. Heller seconded to request Councilmember Evans have the City Council committee on Public Works look into the issue of trash pick ups by both City and private haulers which violate ordinances specifying legal hours for trash pick up. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Mr. Heller said the arrangements for the 1996 Halloween Celebration are the same as last year. Seventeenth Street will be closed from P to R Streets on October 31 from 7 to 10p.m. All the security arrangements will be accomplished by the Third District. He said there won't be any additional events, only the high heel race up 17th Street. He said the special no parking restrictions on 17th Street will be advertised a week in advance. He said there will also be flyers and posters to alert residents about what and when the celebration is and is taking place. Mr. Heller said the police will open the street after the event. Mr. Pitsor said he understands the event went well last year, and that the plans for this year's celebration seem to be well organized. Mr. Little said the Philadelphia AIDS Ride Office will be providing Marshalls for

the event. Dr. Fernandez asked what the prizes for the race would be this year. Mr. Little said the prizes are small so as to keep the competitive aspect friendly and not draw outsiders to the neighborhood. Mr. Bradshaw, a resident, said the Board of the Cavanugh Court Cooperative on 17th Street is in support of the Celebration, and submitted a resolution from them.

MOTION

Mr. Heller moved and Dr. Fernandez seconded to send a letter to the Office of Emergency Preparedness in support of the Halloween Celebration on 17th Street. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Dr. Fernandez introduced a request for support for a "use variance" for Gallery Inn, 1850 Florida Avenue. Mr. Jim Smith, the representative for Gallery Inn said a use variance was necessary for Mr. Giroux, the owner, to convert his property to an inn. Mr. Smith said the property had formerly been operating as a rooming house. He said the neighbors had been petitioned and were in support of the Board of Zoning application for a use variance. Mr. Pitsor said as a point of clarification there is no zoning change. Mr. Smith said that was correct, it was only a Board of Zoning action. Mr. Pitsor asked if a shed would be located behind a fence. Mr. Smith said yes. Mr. Pitsor asked if there would be any physical changes to the outside of the property. Mr. Smith said there would be no changes. Mr. Heller asked if Mr. Giroux would be living at the Inn. Mr. Giroux said no. Mr. Heller asked wasn't it a requirement of a bed and breakfast that the owner live on the property. Mr. Giroux said it was not a bed and breakfast, it was an inn. Mr. Giroux said was planning to rent rooms in the inn for 7 to 20 day stays. He said he expected the inn to be unoccupied for 30% of the year. Mr. Pitsor asked if Mr. Giroux would be serving food. Mr. Giroux said they would serve continental breakfast, but there would be no food service for walk ins. Mr. Heller said he tried to find the building, but the street sign was hard to see. Mr. Giroux said it will be on an awning, which will be up in two weeks.

MOTION

Mr. Pitsor moved and Mr. Heller seconded a letter be sent to the Board of Zoning Adjustment in support of Application no. 16175 for Gallery Inn, 1850 Florida Avenue. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Dr. Fernandez introduced the issue of the proposed installation of public pay phones at 1710, 1712, 1734 Connecticut Avenue and 1136 19th Street. He said all the phones would be out going calls only. He asked for comments. Mr. Heller said one of the phones would be in front of the Pleasure Chest next to a vacant lot. Mr. Jackson said the phone on 19th Street is at Thai restaurant which is next to the Burro Restaurant. Mr. Heller said that was between L and M Streets. Mr. Pitsor said he was concerned about the over-concentration of phones on Connecticut Avenue. Mr. Heller said he

questioned the need for three phones in the same block. He said there are phones at the corner of R Street and Connecticut.

MOTION

Mr. Pitsor moved and Dr. Fernandez seconded opposition to installation of phones at 1710, 1712, and 1734 Connecticut Avenue because there is already sufficient service, and more phones would be an over concentration in that area. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION

Mr. Jackson moved and Dr. Fernandez seconded support for the installation of a one-way service public pay phone at 1136 19th Street, NW as long as the phone is within the confines of the sidewalk cafe. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Dr. Fernandez introduced the issue of applications for use of public space by Prego 2 Go - 2032 P St., Starbucks - 1700 Connecticut Avenue, and Planet Fred, 1221 Connecticut Avenue.

MOTION

Dr. Fernandez moved and Mr. Heller seconded a letter be sent to the Public Space Committee asking them to postpone any action on Prego 2 Go, Starbucks, and Planet Fred until after ANC 2B has had an opportunity to review these applications in a public meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Mr. Pitsor reported the City is working towards a draft of a state transportation plan for the District. He said this would be used in the City's review of amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. He said they have a draft that was just published this month and comments are due by October 15. He said this will come back as incorporated in the Comprehensive Plan amendments, which will be subject to public review, comments, and City Council legislation. He said there will be an opportunity to go into detail at that time. He said there are a couple of recommendations which will impact Dupont Circle. He said one is to make 16th Street a high priority bus zone, to install an automated information kiosk in or around Dupont Circle, and the creation of pedestrian corridors from Dupont Circle to Wisconsin Avenue and along Connecticut Avenue. He said these are some of the concepts that have been prepared. Dr. Fernandez said he looked forward to an enhanced pedestrian walkway on P Street.

OPEN FORUM

One of the owner of Randy's Restaurant, 1517 17th Street said that Randy's wished to serve outdoors over the Columbus Day weekend. He said they would be serving only food. Dr. Fernandez told him to

get a temporary permit from the Public Space Committee. Mr. Heller said he thinks this is a good idea. The owner of Randy's said there would be 10 tables and 22 seats. He said they would not be serving late and would not disturb the neighbors. Mr. Pitsor agreed to consult with the business regarding the temporary public space use.

MOTION

Mr. Heller moved and Dr. Fernandez seconded support for Randy's, 1517 17th Street application for a temporary permit to serve food over the Columbus Day weekend. This is without prejudice or precedent for future applications. The motion passed 3-0-1. Dr. Fernandez abstained.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Jackson, Secretary
ANC 2B, Dupont Circle